

Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for taking the time to hear our testimonies. Last year I came to you asking for the formation and funding of the Asian Pacific American Commission. I want to thank you for establishing this commission. I also want to thank you for appointing me as a member of the Commission in the area of small business and economic development. You have given us recognition and the opportunity to have a voice; however, I am here today to ask you to help fund the start of our commission and let our voices be heard.

While the formation of the Asian Pacific American Commission is a great step forward, it is still only one step. Without funding, a great step becomes just another step with no clear path. Some of you may remember me from last year. I shared my story as a small family business owner. While stereotypes would lead most to conjure images of Laundromats, Chinese restaurants or nail salons, my family business is in erosion protection coatings that are being applied to Black Hawks, V-22s, Unmanned Air Vehicles and a variety of other applications. This is just one example of the breadth and complexity of APAs (Asian Pacific Americans) here in the state. Through the testimonies you will hear many of the issues from discrimination to education and health issues. I am here to talk to you about our impact on the economy and businesses. You have or will hear a slew of numbers and statistics thrown at you, each with their own significance. Here are couple quick facts:

- 1 APAs are the quickest growing minority group in Connecticut: from 2000-2005 we have grown nearly 30% to over 108,000
- 2 APAs cover one of the largest numbers of countries, ethnicities and cultures from Chinese, Japanese, and Korean to southeast Asians (Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian) to Philippines and Malaysia and also include Indian, Pakistani and countless others.
- 3 Since 1997 Asian American business owners have grown over 24% to over 1.2 Million in the United States
- 4 There are more Asian Pacific Islanders in the world than any other category

What I would like to speak to you about today is one of the stereotypes APAs face and how it impacts our state's economy. This is a tough topic for me to speak on. I have spent the majority of my life fighting against this and many other stereotypes but find them relevant to today's discussion.

- 1 "The silent minority"
 - o APAs have been labeled a silent minority for years. Much of this has to do with the larger cultural differences between Eastern and Western worlds. The vast difference between Eastern and Western is perhaps the greatest amongst all cultures. The western world is a me centric place while the eastern world focuses on the group. I was raised not to bring attention to myself. Celebrating awards and recognitions was seen as boastful.

While we may be a silent minority, our presence and impact on America and Connecticut cannot be overlooked. In a period of time, where Barack Obama is president it is still shocking to me that APAs are still overlooked in Connecticut. Last year during these

hearings and subsequent meetings, one Legislator commented, "Are there even 13 Asian Pacific Americans in CT?" While this comment I hope was made in jest I'd like to share with you a few more stereotypes that may show our impact. While relatively not thought about on a day to day basis APAs are involved in a wide variety of daily life.

- 2 All the fast food, and take out restaurants, mall nail parlors and Laundromats are run by Chinese, Indian....insert APA group here
 - o Think about your daily life and how many businesses that truly is. Almost all of these businesses are run by an APA and the majority of the workers are APAs as well.
- 3 All the APAs I went to school with are engineers, lawyers or doctors
 - o Connecticut's colleges include over 3700 undergraduate APAs – The number of graduate APAs was not available
 - These students can either leave Connecticut or stay and help Connecticut's growth. They need to feel recognized and supported as well.
 - o In Connecticut our largest employers include insurance, aerospace/United Technology companies, Casino and the pharmaceutical companies
 - o In the casinos alone, APAs account for more than 20% of Mohegan's business and 33% of Foxwoods.
 - While I could not find data in how many APAs are employed by the casinos, it is quick to say that over 30% of the casino floor staff are APAs and both casinos have publicized their hiring of VPs of Asian Services/marketing.
 - The casinos are another separate issue and I have included an article on the mass targeting of APAs.

These two stereotypes also help to show a large divide amongst APAs. While many are educated there are an equally growing number of those living in poverty. This leads me to the last stereotype that I feel is most important to the funding of our commission:

- 1 APAs are a closed community and only stay within themselves

This is one of the saddest stereotypes but holds many truths. Because of our cultural differences, APAs rarely seek help in the areas of financial aide, mental health, and other types of programs. It is seen as a loss of face and weakness to many. There are language barriers, distrust of western medicine, unfamiliarity with the system and countless other reasons. This problem affects all spectrums of the APA community, from the poorest to the most educated and wealthy.

My circle of APAs consisted of mainly highly educated students. We fit the stereotype of doctors, lawyers, engineers all attending some of the most prestigious schools in the country. Many of these friends have had issues in their homes, with stresses of trying to balance cultures, fitting in, or just fighting the drive to perform. When it came to finding out about schools, doctors, activities our parents sought the advice of other APAs that had already been down that road. They understood our viewpoints, where we were coming from.

In starting a business 18 years ago, my family was not as fortunate to have people to speak to. We were fortunate to find help in the SBIR office (small business innovative research). Over the years I have found that there are numerous resources for businesses and individuals in the state, however, the majority of APAs are not aware of them. More importantly most APAs do not feel that the programs are for them. There is a lot to be said about having someone in government who looks like you, grew up like you, and understands the issues that you go through. In the past few years, I have spoken to many APA business owners who have reached out to ask me questions. They know I have had experience and were scared to ask questions to others or ask for help. With the evergrowing importance of China, India and other Asian countries on the world economy, APAs in Connecticut will have an increasing role in the future. High schools are even starting to offer Chinese alongside the old staples of Spanish and French.

I believe that this commission can be a great leap forward but it cannot truly begin to impact the state until it is funded. We are not asking for much, simply the funds to get started. We are an untapped group with great potential. With our growing numbers and increasing impact on the state you are giving us an opportunity to find our voice. We cannot afford to be silent any longer!

Thank you for your time and continued support.

Most respectfully,

Jeff Hong

I have included two write ups of my company as an example of what the State of Connecticut can do to help small businesses and APAs. It took my over two months to convince my family to agree to the Hartford Courant write-up. They were afraid of being too proud or boastful. There have been many times when we had battles due to race but no where to turn. I am only one of thousands of stories but I hope to be one that helps turn sad stories into a shared success for APAs and the State of Connecticut.

While most of my testimony above focuses on the greater good I would like to take the moment to share that I am a product of Connecticut education since preschool. I attended Uconn and am one of the few of my APA peers that has stayed in the state. It is a decision most of us have struggled with for years. The feeling of being alone and no one to hear your voice has had deep rooted affects on our upbringings. I have lived my life to fight the stereotypes above. I have been involved in too many fights to prove that I was not a weak nor silent. I have seen silent discrimination as well as been the target of blatant racism. I have battled many of the issues I've listed above and been one of those who chose not to seek help because I didn't think "they" would understand. It was not

until later in my college life that I realized I was not alone. The APA peers I grew up with had gone through the same, we had all just never known where to turn to.

Most of my peers have moved to the cities or to the West Coast where APAs are more prevalent. No strange looks when you ask about Eastern Medicines. There are mental health professionals who are APA and understand where we have come from and what it is like. Connecticut is a wonderful state and has been great to me but the decision to stay and raise a family here will be a difficult one. While growing up here in Connecticut has made me who I am today, I'm not sure I'd want my future children to have to fight the same fights we fight today. I would like to be a part of taking the strides that will make Connecticut more accepting of APAs and more importantly provide the direction, resources or even an outlet for other APAs to turn to. Please help in funding this Commission. I speak for all those who have walked in my shoes. I speak for those who cannot. Most importantly I speak on behalf of those in the future so that they may make new footsteps and not walk in mine.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and I hope that you will continue to support our cause. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything else I can do.

Very Respectfully,

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BOB MACDONNELL | rmacdonnell@courant.com

SHEK HONG'S company, Hontek Corp. in South Windsor, has developed polymer coatings to protect military helicopter blades from damage caused by sand, ice and gravel, problems the Army has encountered in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

FIRST, GET INSPIRED

Seminar Led Laid-Off Chemist To Seek Grant, Become Military Contractor

By **JANICE PODSADA**
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When Shek Hong stood outside his Vernon home in 1991 and looked up and down the street, a third of the houses were on the market.

Hong had plenty of time to count the "for sale" signs. He'd been laid off six months earlier from his job as a chemist at a Rockville printing plate maker, joining the more than 60,000 Connecticut workers who lost jobs that year.

Married, with two small children, his unemployment benefits barely covered the bills. He scanned the newspaper want ads, even though each day brought more layoffs.

"I happened to read in The Hartford Courant that the state of Connecticut was sponsoring a seminar on how to submit a proposal to the Department of Defense," said Hong, who would eventually become founder and president of Hontek Corp. in South Windsor.

After attending the seminar, Hong learned that the military was alarmed by the damage that helicopter blades had sustained in Iraq during the Persian Gulf War.

The desert sands could tear up the edges of the rotor blades after fewer than 20 hours of flight time, resulting in costly repairs.

The Defense Department put out a call to inventors and businesses, hoping to find a solution.

Hong wrote a proposal to create a plastic-based coating to protect the blades from erosion.

"It was a long shot. I was just one person working in my basement," Hong said. "These programs are extremely competitive. I sent it in and forgot about it."

Today, Sikorsky Aircraft and the Army are using Hontek's polymer coatings to protect helicopter blades from sand, ice and gravel.

Founded in 1992, Hontek received its initial funding as a result of the proposal to the Defense Department that Hong dashed off in three days.

Four months after submitting his proposal, Hong was astounded to learn that his tiny company would get a \$50,000 Small Business Innovation Research grant from the Defense Department.

The federal grant was part of a \$2 billion annual program that funds small businesses creating breakthrough technologies, said Merrie London, manager of the Connecticut SBIR office in East Hartford.

Once the money for a feasibility study arrived, Hong and his wife, Joanne, who handles the company's finances, went to work.

They hoped to create a coating that would replace the sticky tape that was being used to protect the edges of the million-dollar blades. Although the tape offered protection, it could cause severe vibration if it peeled off in flight.

The results of Hontek's first study were promising. In the years that followed, the company received additional Defense Department grants and tested more than 30,000 compounds.

Hontek grew from two to 10 employees, and in 1997 moved to its present location, a 13,000-square-foot facility.

In 2005, the military needed a new type of coating that would de-ice the blades of helicopters deployed in Afghanistan.

Hontek responded, using private funding to develop a new coating.

Extensive field tests on Black Hawk helicopters in Arizona, Colorado and California and a one-year trial by Virginia Army National Guardsmen stationed in Iraq proved the coating's value.

Last year, the Army decided to use Hontek's coating on its new Black Hawk helicopters. The product is also being tested for use on the Army's Apache attack helicopter and the Navy's heavy-lift helicopter.

For a civilian use, the company's engineers are testing coatings that can be used to protect wind turbines that generate electricity.

"Being laid off is not the end of the world," said Hong, who is now 60, recalling the events that led him to launch his own company.

"It was a kick in the butt. Sometimes life has its turns. When it looks like there's no hope at all, opportunity can be just around the corner."

Rotor Blades Erosion Protection in Sand, Rain & Ice Hontek Coatings Revolutionize Field Repairs

By Shek C. Hong and
LTC (Ret.) Peter H. Smart

The challenge to all helicopters operating in the Middle East and in desert environments around the world has been the severe and expensive damage caused by sand and debris erosion to rotor blades.

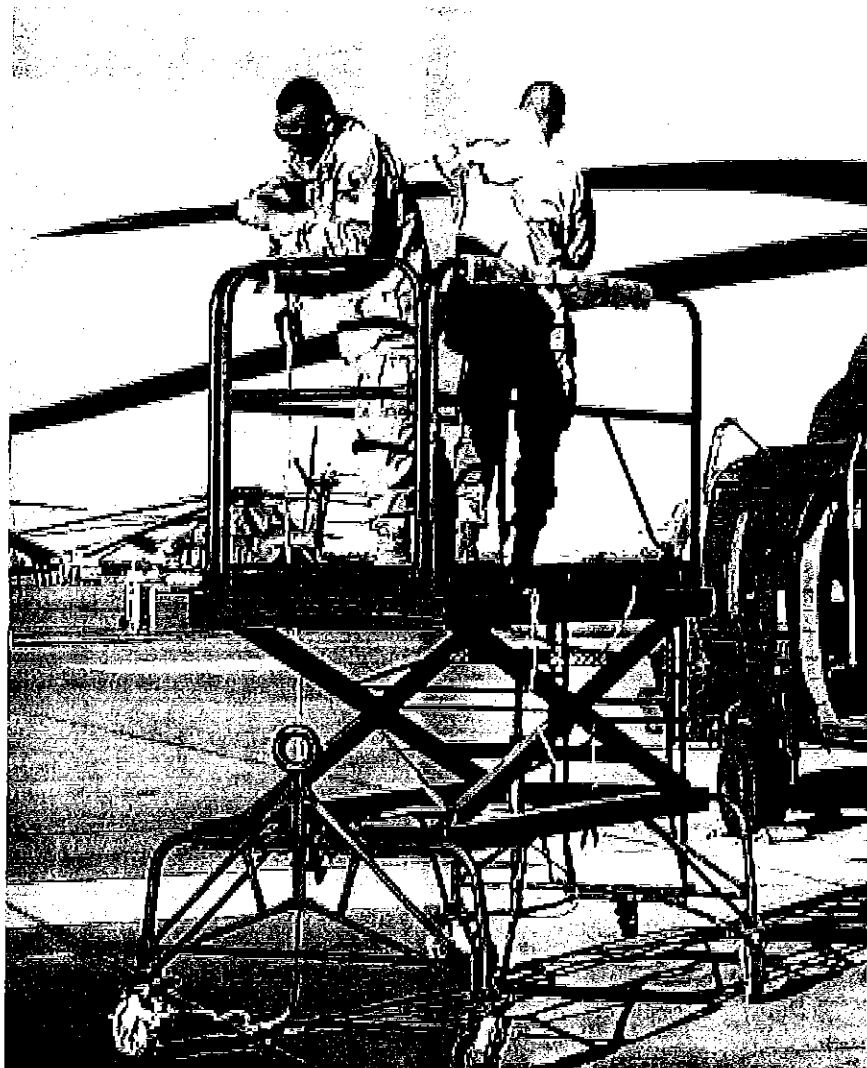
The Hontek Corporation of South Windsor, Conn., was founded in 1992 following Operation Desert Storm to research and analyze this problem, and then develop erosion protection materials for use on helicopter rotor blades.

In 2008, Hontek joined the Army aviation community when the Utility Helicopters Project Manager's Office (UHPMO) decided to coat the new UH-60M model Black Hawk main rotor blades with Hontek's HC05XP1 heat conductive, de-icing capable, sprayable coatings.

Hontek HC05XP1 is easily repairable on wing at the field level and the aircraft has no operational limitations, to include flight in rain and icing conditions.

One of the major improvements for the flight line maintainer using Hontek's coating is the initial Hontek process is completed at the depot or original equipment manufacturer's level, significantly reducing the amount of touch labor involved with installation by field maintainers.

The receiving unit is only required to remove the main rotor blade from the shipping container, install it on the



During the Yuma desert training in December 2005, Hontek coated blades were repaired on the aircraft, without power tools, by Virginia Army Guard Soldiers.

aircraft, and run a "track and balance" check. Subsequent recurring maintenance for spot repairs is minimal and this process allows aircraft crew chiefs and maintainers to use their time more efficiently.

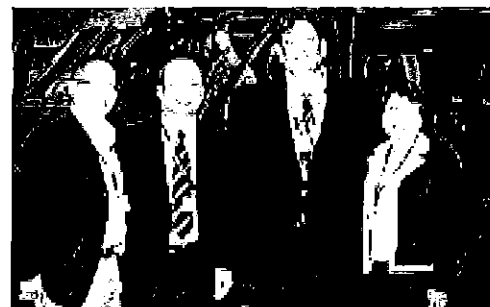
To date, approximately 400 UH-60 main rotor blades have been coated for the Army, including 160 "M" model main rotor blades.

The coated blades are being used on the first unit equipped UH-60M models as well as on legacy Black Hawk models. The units receiving these coated main rotor blades include the 101st Airborne Division, the California and Colorado Army National Guard, and others.

The fast paced development taking place in 2008 is a continuation of the current four-year journey of the HC05XP1 coating systems for Army helicopter platforms.

Iraq Field Trials

Following a year long trade study



Andrew Ksepka, second from right, was part of the hard-driving force to bring the coated blades to the troops. Here, Ksepka, meets with the Hong family, Jeff, Shek and Joanne, during the 2007 AAAA Convention.

conducted by Sikorsky Aircraft, under contract with the Army, Hontek HC05XP1 coating systems were selected by Sikorsky and the Army for use on UH-60A and L models.

The Hontek-coated main and tail rotor blades were field tested in the desert at Yuma, Ariz. in December 2005 by the Virginia ARNG, who then conducted additional testing when



This past May 1, Hontek coated blades were flown in snow and icing in Denver on a UH-60A Black Hawk #23445 from the Colorado Army National Guard.

deployed in Iraq between February 2006 to February 2007.

In April 2007, the UHPMO, Sikorsky and Hontek met with Virginia Guard officials in Richmond to review their year-long experience.

The Guard reported the following results:

a. Among the 20 UH-60s with the Guard unit, the two aircraft with Hontek-coated blades flew 763- and 684-hours respectively with no main or tail rotor blade replacements required during the one year operation. The blades were determined flight worthy upon inspection at Sikorsky after the deployment.

b. By comparison, the 18 other Guard aircraft that used tape or flew without any protection required 44 replacements during the same deployment, including 22 main rotor and 12 tail rotor blade replacements, and 10 tip-cap replacements. Those aircraft were out of service an average of 3 to 5 days per replacement.

c. Hontek-coated blades required a minor topcoat repair after 40 flight hours and a "primer-basecoat-topcoat" repair every 120 hours.

d. The topcoat touch-up repair took less than 3 hours and could be flown immediately if required. The "primer-basecoat-topcoat" full repair takes less than 12 hours, including application and cure time.

e. After one year of operation and occasional repairs, there was no need to track and balance the coated blades.

f. Repairs can be done on the aircraft in the field and can be flown immediately in an emergency situation, without impacting flight safety.

After the review, the UHPMO con-

cluded that Hontek-coated blades demonstrated the potential for unlimited blade life against erosion if the blade coatings are properly maintained.

Water and De-icing Tests

In April 2008, Hontek-coated blades were further tested on UH-60A aircraft for water erosion and de-icing capabilities by the Colorado ARNG in Denver. The aircraft flew in snow and, as expected, the de-icing system was functional.

As of Oct. 31, the CO-ARNG had conducted over 135 hours of operations in mixed environments of sand, rain and snow, including VFR and IFR trainings, as well as numerous landings at dusty sites. According to an ARNG maintenance officer, the Hontek-coated blades held up to the abuse well. The officer said even if they get damaged, "...the damage is minor in nature and it is still nothing more than a short repair away from pristine condition."

There have been no major issues.

UH-60M Wide Chord Blades

In May 2008, one set of Hontek-coated rotor blades were installed by the 101st Abn. Div. on a UH-60M helo (#052) as part of the program to qualify the coatings on the wide chord blade. These blades were deployed twice to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for a total of 195 flight hours (72 hours at home station and 123 at the NTC).

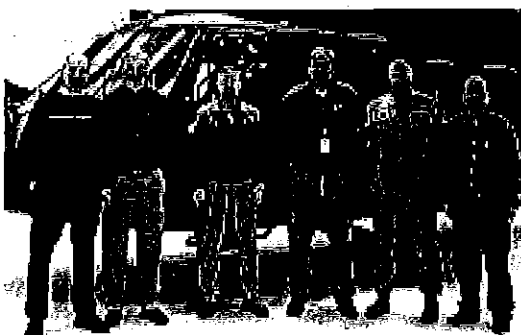
The aircraft participated in environmental, gunnery and force-on-force training. The aircraft landed repeatedly in the worst environments of the NTC with dust, sand, rocks and

debris. During the dust landing training, the aircraft conducted as many as 50 landings a day training the crews.

According to the reports from the unit, the Hontek-coated blades performed exceptionally well and aircraft 052 was the only helo in the fleet that did not require blade repairs. The other UH-60M aircraft required repairs to the erosion protection system they used.

The damage to the Hontek-coated blades was minor in nature. In the words of the airframe repairmen, "compared to the alternate method, the Hontek-coated blades performed 10 times better."

The experiences at NTC also confirmed that the coated blades and the repair procedures have the following attractive features: easier to apply,



After the May 1 flight in snow by Black Hawk #23445 in Denver, Sikorsky reps Greg Monahan and Tom O'Connor, Jim Metzger with UHPMO, Shek Hong, Colorado Guardsmen CW4 Jeffrey Grouard and SSG Marc R. Belo commemorate the event with a photo in front of the aircraft.

does not require special tools, does not require blade removal, still has blade de-ice capability, can operate in the rain, and has minimal impact on performance planning as compared to other protection methods.

After the extensive desert testing, the UHPMO Modifications Office made the following conclusions about Hontek-coated blades:

a. Unprotected blades and blades using other types of erosion protection in desert environments experienced significant surface damage in less than 20 flight hours. Blades using other types of erosion protection required frequent maintenance and caused loss of aircraft availability.

b. Hontek-coated rotor blades performed in the same manner as demonstrated by previous A & L model aircraft tests in Iraq. Limited and minor erosion damage was minimized. Maintenance and coating repair

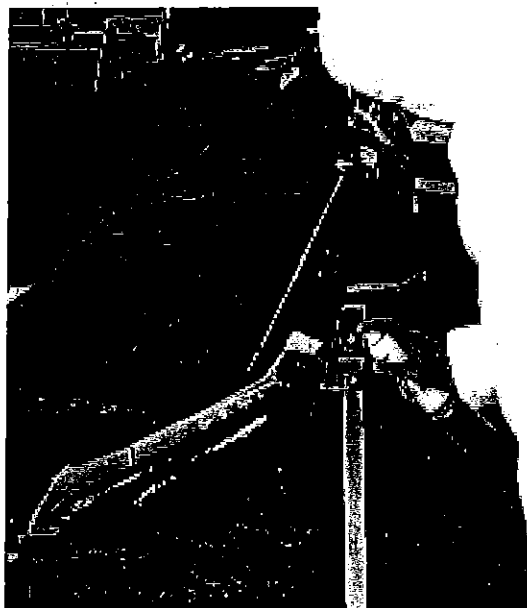


PHOTO COURTESY HONTEK

After flying 763 flight hours in Iraq with minor damage, a UH-60 main rotor blade with the Hontek-coating is used in a repair training demonstration at Fort Campbell, Ky. Shown here, a Soldier completes a "primer-basecoat-topcoat" repair over a masked outboard area.

efforts were significantly reduced compared to other erosion protection methods. The Hontek coating contributes to improved blade life, increase aircraft availability, and reduces maintenance requirements. Hontek coatings when properly maintained will significantly increase the amount of time on-wing thereby extending the blades useful life when operating in harsh environments.

Dedicated Joint Efforts

The introduction of Hontek coatings to UH-60 helicopters is a joint effort of the Army Aviation and Missile Command, the Utility Helicopter Project Manager's Office, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Kaman Aerospace and the Hontek Corp. Many people have labored through very long hours over the past four years to bring this new technology to the field.

MG James H. Pillsbury, then AMCOM's commanding general, saw the values of this new technology and was instrumental in providing funding support for the field trials.

Andrew Ksepka, the assistant project manager for Modifications, and his team of LTC Peter Smart, LTC David Bristol, Chris Cousins, Dave Stone, Marshall Young and James Metzger worked with determination



On May 12, UH-60M Black Hawk #052 flew with Hontek coated main blades for the first time. On hand for the flight were many representatives from Sikorsky, the Utility Helicopter Project Manager's Office; Co. D, 4th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt.; the Army's Aviation and Missile Command, and Hontek.



MG James Pillsbury inspects blade coatings with Shek Hong on a main rotor blade during the 2007 AAAA Convention.

and commitment to bring this technology to our fighting forces in the field.

Tom O'Connor, Sikorsky's Black Hawk Project Manager, and his team of Greg Monahan, Jack Kopchik and Glenn Duhaime have devoted the past four years to working closely with the UHPMO on this project.

Kaman Aerospace has invested in an expanded spray-booth facility to meet the increased demands for coated blades.

There are many more hidden heroes behind the scene. Due to their superb efforts, the introduction of this new coating technology is now available to the field.

Supporting Warfighters

Hontek's new coating system has revolutionized the way rotor blades are protected and repaired in the field; enabling America's warfighters to focus their attention on tactical operations and has significantly reduced maintenance related down time.

Hontek coating demonstrates the ability to significantly increase the time on-wing when operating in a sandy

environment with minimal maintenance provided at the field level.

During the field repair training sessions we observed a great deal of enthusiasm from the Soldiers due to the ease of aviation unit maintenance level repair. Knowing that we have provided a new way of reducing the chores of flying and seeing the excitement among the warfighters has been the most rewarding experience in the four-year long journey.

To support the warfighters, COL L. Neil Thurgood, the project manager for Utility Helicopters, announced to the attendees of the 2008 Black Hawk Users Conference that putting Hontek coatings on UH-60 helicopters would be a priority for the coming year.

Other Applications

Due to its exceptional performance against sand, rain, stone and gravel impact damages, Hontek HC05XP1 is being qualified for use on the Navy's H-53 heavy lift helicopter. HC07XP1, a variant of HC05XP1, is being qualified on the Marine Corps' V-22 aircraft. A flight demonstration is also being planned for the AH-64 Apache helicopter.



Shek C. Hong is a polymer chemist and the president of Hontek Corporation, South Windsor, Conn. Retired LTC Peter Smart was an assistant project manager for systems integration with the Utility Helicopter Project Office during the field integration phase of the Hontek erosion coating project.

Asian Pacific Americans by the Numbers

From the U.S. Census Bureau

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

14.9 million

The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2006 who said they were Asian alone or Asian in combination with one or more other races. This group comprised about 5% of the total population.



5 million

The Asian population in California, the state that had the largest Asian population (either alone or in combination with one or more other races) on July 1, 2006, as well as the largest numerical increase from 2005 to 2006 (114,000). New York (1.4 million) and Texas (882,000) followed in population. Texas (43,000) and New York (34,000) followed in numerical increase. In Hawaii, Asians made up the highest proportion of the total population (56%), with California (14%) and New Jersey and Washington (8% each) next.

Related Links

- [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)
- [Origins of APA Heritage Month](#)
- [Famous Firsts by Asian Americans](#)
- [Asian-American History](#)
- [Timeline of Asian-American History](#)

3.2%

Percentage growth of the Asian population (either alone or in combination with one or more other races) between 2005 and 2006, the highest of any race group during that time period. The increase in the Asian population during the period totaled 460,000.

3.6 million

Number of Asians of Chinese descent in the U.S. Chinese Americans are the largest Asian group, followed by Filipinos (2.9 million), Asian Indians (2.7 million), Vietnamese (1.6 million), Koreans (1.5 million), and Japanese (1.2 million). These estimates represent the number of people who are either of a particular Asian group only or are of that group in combination with one or more other Asian groups or races.

Education

49%

The percentage of single-race Asians 25 and older who have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. This compares with 27% for all Americans 25 and older.

86%

The percentage of single-race Asians 25 and older who have at least a high school diploma. This compares with 84% for all Americans 25 and older.

20%

The percentage of single-race Asians 25 and older who have a graduate (e.g., master's or doctorate) or professional degree. This compares with 10% for all Americans 25 and older.

The Asian population comprises many groups who differ in languages spoken and culture, which is reflected in the demographic characteristics of these groups. For instance, 69% of Asian Indians 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or more education, and 36% had a graduate or professional degree. The corresponding numbers for Vietnamese Americans were 26% and 7%, respectively. (These figures represent the single-race

population. The percentage of Vietnamese Americans who had a bachelor's degree or higher was not significantly different from 27%, the percentage for all Americans.)

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance

\$64,238

Median household income for single-race Asians in 2006, the highest among all race groups.

Median household income differed greatly by Asian group. For Asian Indians, for example, the median income in 2006 was \$78,315; for Vietnamese Americans, it was \$52,299. (These figures represent the single-race population.)

10.3%

Poverty rate for single-race Asians in 2006, statistically unchanged from 2005.

15.5%

Percentage of single-race Asians without health insurance coverage in 2006, down from 17.2% in 2005.

Businesses

1.1 million

Number of businesses owned by Asian Americans in 2002, up 24% from 1997. The rate of increase in the number of Asian-owned businesses was about twice that of the national average for all businesses.

More than \$326 billion

Receipts of Asian-American-owned businesses in 2002, up 8% from 1997. An estimated 319,468 Asian-owned businesses had paid employees, and their receipts totaled more than \$291 billion. There were 49,636 Asian-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more, accounting for 4.5% of the total number of Asian-owned firms and nearly 68% of their total receipts.

In 2002, more than three in 10 Asian-owned firms operated in professional, scientific and technical services, as well as other services, such as personal services, and repair and maintenance.

2.2 million

Number of people employed by an Asian-owned business. There were 1,866 Asian-owned firms with 100 or more employees, generating nearly \$52 billion in gross receipts (18% of the total revenue for Asian-owned employer firms).

46%

Percentage of all Asian-owned firms that was either Chinese owned or Asian Indian owned.

Nearly 6 in 10

Proportion of all Asian-owned firms in the United States in California, New York, Texas, and New Jersey.

112,441

The number of Asian-owned firms in New York, which led all cities. Los Angeles (47,764), Honolulu (22,348), and San Francisco (19,639) followed.

28%

Proportion of Asian-owned businesses that responded to the 2002 Survey of Business Owners that they were

home based. This is the lowest proportion among minority respondent groups.

Languages

2.5 million

The number of people 5 and older who speak Chinese at home. After Spanish, Chinese is the most widely spoken non-English language in the country. Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean are each spoken at home by more than 1 million people.

Serving Our Nation

292,100

The number of single-race Asian military veterans. About one in three was 65 and older.

Jobs

47%

The proportion of civilian employed single-race Asians 16 and older who work in management, professional, and related occupations, such as financial managers, engineers, teachers, and registered nurses. Additionally, 23% work in sales and office occupations, 16% in service occupations and 10% in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

Counties

1.4 million

The number of Asians (alone or in combination with one or more other races) in Los Angeles County, Calif., in 2006, which tops the nation's counties. Santa Clara County, Calif. (home of San Jose) was the runner-up (556,000).

17,600

Santa Clara County's Asian population increase from 2005 to 2006, the largest in the nation. Los Angeles (15,700) followed.

59%

Percent of the population of Honolulu County, Hawaii, that was Asian in 2006, which led the country. One other county—Kauai, Hawaii—was also majority Asian. San Francisco County, Calif., led the continental United States, with 34% of its population Asian.

Age Distribution

35.2

Median age, of the single-race Asian population in 2006. The corresponding figure is 36.4 years for the population as a whole.

The Future

33.4 million

The projected number of U.S. residents in 2050 who will identify themselves as single-race Asians. They would comprise 8% of the total population by that year.
